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news

International team battles blazes across challenging terrain

Bay chopper pilot helps fight fires in Chile

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A Nelson Mandela Bay helicopter pilot is in Chile to help firefighters there battle a series of devastating blazes that are raging across the west-central region of the South American country.

Speaking from his base at an airfield outside the city of Chillan, Jacques Coetzer said the situation was serious — but a strong local firefighting team supported by a squadron of international experts were working flat out to meet the challenge.

"It's undulating terrain, the conditions are hot, dry and windy, and there is a lot of smoke."

"We have to fly low to allow us to do the water drops, so the visibility is not good and, with so many aircraft in the air at the same time, that's the biggest challenge," he said.

An estimated 24 separate fires have razed more than 30,000ha in Biobio and Nuble, including residential areas, farmland and pine plantations, according to Chile's National Forestry Corporation.

A "state of catastrophe" has been declared, allowing for the deployment of soldiers.

According to the Chilean authorities, at least 18 people have died, and the fires have destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 homes and forced the evacuation of 50,000 residents.

Suspected arson is being probed.

Coetzer, 48, said he had been in Chile since the fires erupted a fortnight ago.

"We'll finish breakfast just now and then from 9am to just before sunset, we will be fighting the fires."

"So it's long, hard hours but I came across here because this is exactly the kind of high



Bay chopper pilot Jacques Coetzer, left, and Chilean translator Franco Lauritano in Coetzer's helicopter during his firefighting mission in the South American country

impact work I trained for.

"I will stay as long as I'm needed and the contract requires."

He said the fires were burning over a wide expanse, so co-ordination and progress were difficult, with aircraft having to crisscross the region as blazes were doused and then flared again.

"I fly with a translator, so when instructions come in with GPS co-ordinates for the next drop, he's there to make sure I've understood right."

"Most important he's also listening to the other aircraft to ensure that we know where everyone is and there's no chance of collisions."

"I'm working with an international company including guys from Canada, Spain and SA, alongside Chilean authorities and ground crews."

"Our South African group includes three helicopter pilots and four engineers to keep our machines in the air."

"Chile has developed strong co-ordination between air and ground resources and makes heavy use of contracted international aircraft."

"SA can learn a lot from them about rapid mobilisation, inter-agency co-ordination and large-scale aerial response."

"There is thankfully plenty of water available in this case

in the form of lakes and rivers.

"Within our aerial fleet there are two sky cranes, which is a huge heavy-lift helicopter."

"And they even deployed a Boeing 737 jet to help us with the water drops."

Coetzer said the fires that started in the Bay and spread west through Kouga had begun even before he left Gqeberha and the lapa at his home in Theescombe went up in flames during one close call.

"The firefighting team back home has their permanent helicopter guys they work with but, if there's still fires when I get back, when they have their down time, then I will see what's available."

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I'm working with an international company including guys from Canada, Spain and SA, alongside Chilean authorities and ground crews'

Award-winning director stages new comedy after hiatus

Herald Reporter

After a two-year hiatus, apart from a small Christmas show in December, award-winning director and actor Lesley Barnard returns to the director's chair with a beautifully crafted comedy/drama set in a rural English vicarage garden.

Barnard, over the span of more than 45 years, has performed and directed many a comedy, farce and drama, as well as Shakespeare in the Park.

She has also harnessed a team of five — some well-known actors and some who have also been taking a little break and are ready to tread the boards again with the new production of *Entertaining Angels*.

Leading the team as Grace is Yolande Farrow (*Calendar Girls*, *Steel Magnolias* and *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*) — all directed by Barnard.

Acclaimed journalist and The Herald columnist Brett Adkins plays Bardy, Grace's husband.

Adkins has previously had lead roles in *A Few Good Men*, *Richard III* and *Twelfth Night*, among other productions.

Add to this Simone Nicholson, who is fairly new to the stage, but stood out as one to watch in the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Nicholson takes on the role of Ruth, Grace's slightly eccentric sister.

Newcomer Kimberlee Blackbeard plays Sarah, Under the banner of



Back, from left, Gemma Barnard, Simone Nicholson and Kimberlee Blackbeard. Front, Yolande Farrow and Brett Adkins

Barnard's daughter's production company, Gemma Barnard Productions, Gemma is both the producer and fills in the role of Jo.

Gemma herself is no stranger to local audiences as an actor, singer, director — and more recently a lecturer.

She also performs at many local cabaret venues as a solo and duet artist, and as part of the acoustic duo Whiskey & Ginger.

Entertaining Angels follows

the story of clergy wife Grace, who has spent a lifetime displaying her best behaviour. But for what?

Now, following the death of her husband, Bardy, she is enjoying the newfound freedom to do and say exactly as she pleases.

The show takes place at the Isithatha Theatre in Walmer from February 25-28.

There are evening and matinee shows, and the production is suitable for ages 13 and older. Tickets cost R120 and are available via www.isithatha.co.za/tickets

Leading the team as Grace is Yolande Farrow ('Calendar Girls', 'Steel Magnolias' and 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice') — all directed by Barnard

The Herald **air your views** **herald letters@arena.africa**

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BID INVITATION

Sundays River Valley Municipality invites proposals from suitable and experienced service providers for the following service:

- APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF PATERSON LANDFILL SITE FOR PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS**
BID NO: SRVM 008/2026
Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with **Appointment of Service Provider for Operations, Maintenance and Management of Paterson Landfill Site for Period of 12 Months for SRVM-008/2026** and must be deposited in the Bid Box, at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not later than 11 February 2026 at 10h00am.
- APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUNLAND LANDFILL SITE FOR PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS**
BID NO: SRVM 009/2026
Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with **Appointment of Service Provider for Operations, Maintenance and Management of Sunland Landfill Site for Period of 12 Months for SRVM-009/2026** and must be deposited in the Bid Box, at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not later than 11 February 2026 at 11h00am.
- APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF KIRKWOOD LANDFILL SITE FOR PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS**
BID NO: SRVM 010/2026
Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with **Appointment of Service Provider for Operations, Maintenance and Management of Kirkwood Landfill Site for Period of 12 Months for SRVM-010/2026** and must be deposited in the Bid Box, at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not later than 11 February 2026 at 12h00pm.

The physical address for collection of tender documents is: **SRVM Cashiers Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood**. Documents may be collected during working hours from 08h30am till 16h00pm from 23 January 2026. Tender documents will be available at a **non-refundable deposit of R 300.00 each (no cash accepted)** Banking details are as follows: **First National Bank, Account Number 620 254 90856, Branch Number 210817, Reference – Tender Number**. Proof of payment should be provided upon tender collection.

TENDERS WILL BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THE 80/20 PREFERENTIAL POINT SYSTEM AS PER PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATION 2022 AS WELL AS FUNCTIONALITY

STAGE 1 EVALUATION: FUNCTIONALITY

NO	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL POINTS
1	Full time Plant (for all the landfill sites) 4 x 4 TLB x 1 6m ³ Tipper truck x 1 Landfill Compactor x 1 Dust Control truck	30
2	Work Experience as landfill operator 4 projects or more 3-2 projects 1 Project NB: Attach Proof of appointment letter and reference from your previous municipality projects	20
3	Key Operation Team a) Engineer (qualified Engineer) Please attach CV and certified copies of Degree / Diploma and relevant experience b) Site manager / supervisor (Grade 12 with Waste management and supervisory experience / qualification) Please attach CV and certified copies. c) Environmentalist: Diploma/Degree in Environmental Health/Environmental Management/Conservation or relevant qualification registered with Institute of Waste Management of South Africa (IWMSA) (non-submission of these abovementioned documents will be 0 points)	20
4	Site Operational Plan/Programme of work(as guided by Minimum Requirements of Landfill Sites) plus Fire Control Plan	7
5	Completed Projects (attach proof) Above R1 million Between R700 000 & R500 000 Below R500 000 Attached Completion Certificates	3
6	Locality of the service provider a) Resides within Sundays River Valley Municipality b) Resides within Eastern Cape c) Resides in any province in South Africa	20
Total		100

Bids that score less than 70 points out of 100 in respect of FUNCTIONALITY will not proceed to the PREFERENTIAL POINTS CALCULATION stage of evaluation process.

STAGE 2 Price and Specific Goals

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Price	80
Specific Goals – B-BBEE (Original or certified B-BBEE Certificate)	10
LED (Proof of address signed by ward Councillor / Lease Agreement)	10
Total	100

SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING BID CONDITIONS:

- [a] Sundays River Valley Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy will apply;
- [b] Sundays River Valley Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest BID or any other BID and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the BID;
- [c] Bids which are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by facsimile or electronically, will not be accepted.
- [d] Price(s) quoted must be valid for at least ninety (90) days from the date of your offer.
- [e] Price(s) quoted must be firm and must be inclusive of VAT.
- [f] A firm delivery period must be indicated.
- [h] **The following compulsory documents must be submitted with the tender.**
 1. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate- OR Status Pin.
 2. B-BBEE Certificate Original or Certified copy, Sworn Affidavit Original or Certified Copy.
 3. Original certified ID Copies of Entity's Director(s) (Certification not older than 3 months before the closing date)
 4. Completed MBD forms -1, 4, 6, 1, 8 & 9.
 5. Company registration Documents.
 6. Municipal statement of Rates or Billing Clearance not older than three months or valid Lease Agreement.
 7. Proof of Central Supplier Database (CSD) registration- a full report printed.

Failure to submit any of the above requested documents will invalidate your bid and it will not be evaluated further.

Technical enquiries related to this bid can be directed to josephm@srvm.gov.za or 066-416-2789. SCM enquiries related to this bid can be directed to phelokazin@srvm.gov.za or 042 230 7807.

Mr. T. Klaas
Municipal Manager

Home of the Addo Elephant Park